



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at gscoc@deq.virginia.gov.

Earth Day Retrospective

April 22 is Earth Day, and there will be celebrations, events, and stories about the environment on most television channels, in the newspapers and magazines, and on the internet. Climate change, global warming, pollution of the air and water, hazardous waste and resource depletion will be areas of discussion.

How did it all begin? In the late 1960's, ever increasing air pollution was linked to disease and death in New York, Los Angeles, and elsewhere as noxious fumes, spewed out by cars and factories created smog, and made city life less and less bearable. In the wake of Rachel Carson's 1962 best-seller, *Silent Spring*, there was widespread concern over large-scale use of pesticides, often near densely populated communities. In addition, huge fish kills were reported on the Great Lakes, and the media carried the news that Lake Erie, one of America's largest bodies of fresh water, was in its death throes. Ohio became a poster child of pollution at its worst when Cleveland's Cuyahoga River, an artery inundated with oil and toxic chemicals, burst into flames through spontaneous combustion. People were beginning to see and understand that the environment, their environment, was in danger.

In 1969 Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) spearheaded the planning of the first Earth Day. The concept of "teach-ins" became the basis for organized demonstrations in support of the environment, Senator Nelson and concerned students, citizens and service organizations across the nation set up meetings and organized events to spur a broad-based public discussion on the changing how man interacted with the environment. On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day.

Each year in April we now reaffirm our concerns about and desire for a cleaner environment. Earth Day spurred the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December of 1970, and gave a much stronger profile to the federal effort to curb environmental decay across the nation.

Looking back on the first Earth Day, the message that we as individuals need to take responsibility for protecting the environment is still viable. As the saying goes, we do not own the Earth, we are merely guardians for future generations. Visit your jurisdiction's website for information on Earth Day events where you live. Happy Earth Day!

Did You Know?

- ✓ Virginia's Computer Recovery and Recycling Act goes into effect on July 1, 2009. All computer manufacturers whose products are sold in Virginia must prepare a recycling plan for their products, post the plan on their web site, and notify DEQ of the posting and plan. The plan must be convenient and at no cost to the consumer.
- ✓ EPA has a web page devoted to Earth Day. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/earthday>. This web site includes a "Take Home Kit" with activities for children.

Rock and Wrap It Up

Ever wondered what happened to all the left-over food from events such as concerts, sports, and conferences? It is most often thrown away. **Rock and Wrap It Up**, a non-profit group based in New York, thought there was a better way – deliver the un-served food to local shelters and soup kitchens!

The organization works with over 150 bands, including The Dave Matthews Band, to have the edible left-over food from backstage taken to such service venues using local agencies and volunteers. All donors of this food are protected by The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act of 1996. The program also works with professional sports venues of the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL. Visit <http://www.rockandwrapitup.org/index.php> for more information on how this program works.

Calendar of Events

April 1 – 2
Environment Virginia in Lexington

April 22
Earth Day!

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